One Snowshoe
presents

Kodomo wa Wakatte Agenai

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EVER BECOME AVAILABLE!

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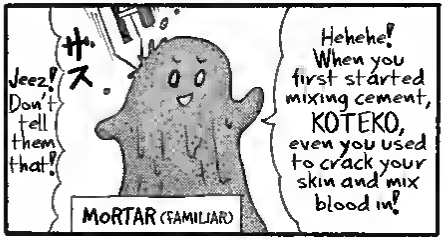
7.
CEMENT-O MORI

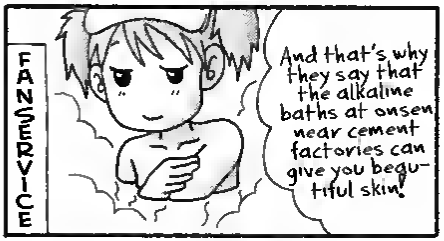
UP FOR A LITTLE PART-TIME JOB, MINAMI-CHAN?
チッカ
チッカ
I'LL LET YOU WORK OFF A BIT OF THAT RESEARCH FEE.
チッカ
チッカ
...CAN I MAKE A DECISION AFTER I HEAR WHAT KIND OF JOB IT IS?
GAH! YOU'RE CERTAINLY CANNY.
YEAH, FINE.

SO AFTER YOU TWO LEFT MY OFFICE THAT DAY, I ACTUALLY HAD ANOTHER CLIENT COME AND ASK ME TO FIND SOMEONE.
AND IT TURNS OUT THIS CLIENT IS FROM THE CULT WHOSE TALISMAN YOU BROUGHT ME.
AND THE PERSON WHOM THEY WANT ME TO LOCATE IS THE FOUNDER OF THAT CULT.
VROOOOM
AND APPARENTLY THAT FOUNDER TOOK SOME OF THE CULT'S MONEY AND VANISHED.
AND WITHIN THE CULT,
THEY CALLED HIM "MITSUUMI-SENSEI,"
BUT HIS REAL NAME IS WARAGAI TOMOMITSU.
HE'S YOUR FATHER, MINAMI-CHAN.

I WHOLE-HEARTEDLY AND SIN-CERELY APOL--
HEY!! WHY ARE YOU APOLO-GIZING?!
THAT'S
.....
I HAVEN'T TOLD THE CULT YET THAT I'VE ALREADY FIGURED OUT WHERE HE IS.
EH?
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S OKAY? THEIR SITUATION SOUNDS A LOT MORE URGENT.
WELL, MAYBE. BUT YOU ASKED ME FOR SEARCH FOR HIM FIRST, DIDN'T YOU?
PLUS, I HAVE THIS FEEL-ING I MAY NEED TO SETTLE YOUR RE-QUEST FIRST.
HE MAY BE THEIR FOUNDER, BUT HE STILL TOOK OFF WITH THEIR MONEY.
ONCE THEY FIND HIM, HE MAY WIND UP WEARING CEMENT SHOES AT THE BOTTOM OF TOKYO BAY.

If you touch it with your bare hands, your skin may burn!
High alkaline cement is much stronger, but...

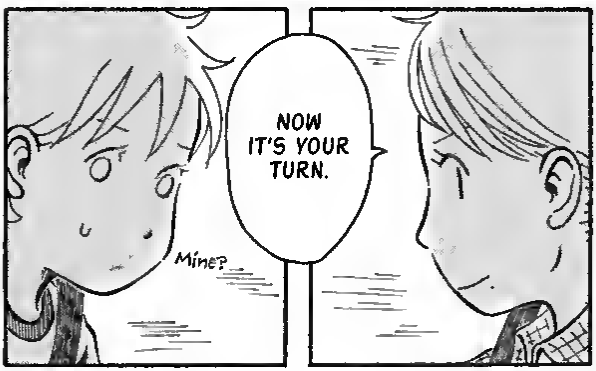

Jeez! Don't tell them that!
MORTAR (FAMILIAR)
Hehehe! When you first started mixing cement, KOTEKO, even you used to crack your skin and mix blood in!


FANSERVICE
And that's why they say that the alkaline baths at onsen near cement factories can give you beautiful skin!

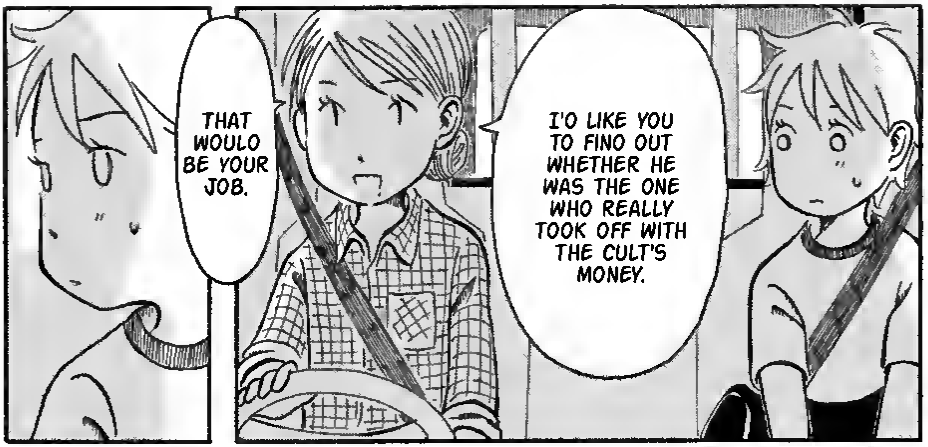
Hey everybody!? Remember me? I'm Magical Plastering Girl Buffalo KOTEKO!
Today, let's talk a bit about cement!
-Magic Plastering Girl BUFFALO KOTEKO

Portland Cement
CHICHIBU CEMENT
WHITE CEMENT
The joner
MANY LIFE-STYLES, MANY TYPES OF CEMENT

AH
MI-NAMI-CHAN!
...CHAN?
KOTEKO!! Just you wait!
He's the god of plasterers
Prince Shotoku will get really, really mad at you!!
KOTEKO! If you skip out on work again,
Aw maaaan. That made me really wanna go to an onsen. Let's go right now...


NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.
Mine?

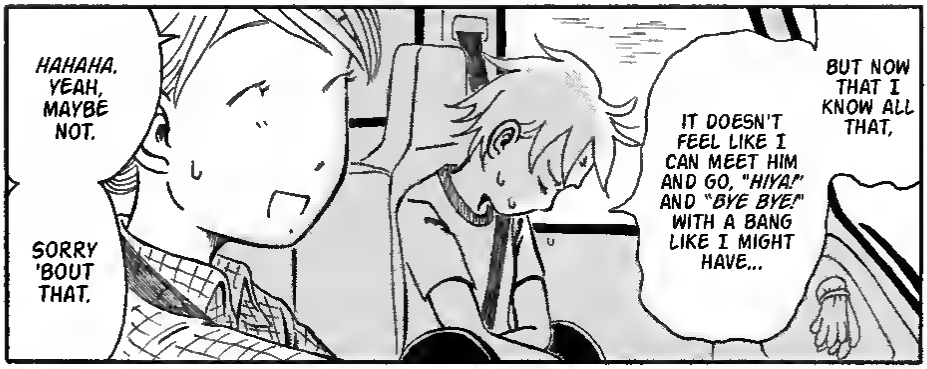
I'M OKAY!
ARE YOU OKAY? I THINK I MAY HAVE SAID TOO MUCH AND LET THE STORY TURN A BIT TOO HARD BOILED.

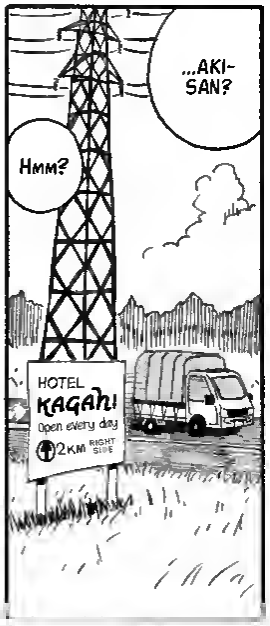

THAT WOULO BE YOUR JOB.
I'O LIKE YOU TO FINO OUT WHETHER HE WAS THE ONE WHO REALLY TOOK OFF WITH THE CULT'S MONEY.

PACHINKO - SLOTS
BURNING CHARIOT
2KM
I'VE KEPT TO THE STORY THAT I'M A DETECTIVE THAT YOU HIRED, MINAMI-CHAN.
SO I HAVEN'T SAID A WORD TO HIM YET ABOUT ACCEPTING THE CULT'S REQUEST.
SEE, I WAS THINKING THAT HE MIGHT JUST TELL THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER TO SOMEONE OF HIS OWN FLESH AND BLOOD.
50

... YOU SURE? IT WILL HELP ME OUT A TON.
YEAH.

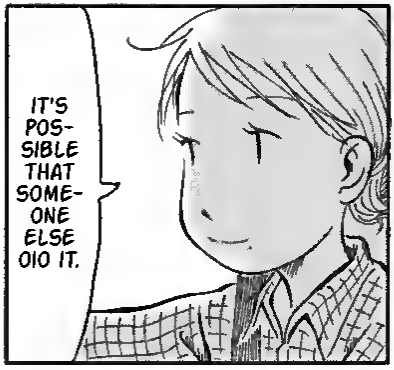
THERE'S NO NEED TO ACCOMMODATE THE CIRCUM-STANCES I'VE DISCOVERED.
ALL YOU'VE EVER SAID IS THAT YOU JUST WANT TO MEET YOUR FATHER.
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS.
I'LL DO IT.

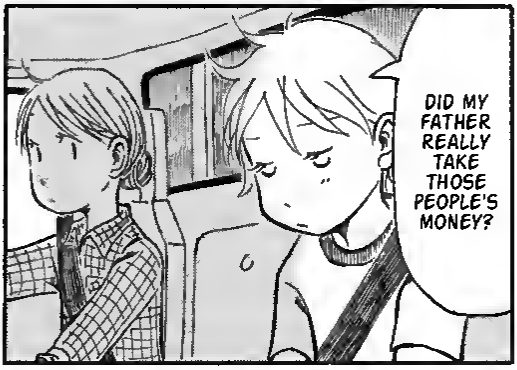

HAHAHA. YEAH, MAYBE NOT.
SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE I CAN MEET HIM AND GO, "HIYA!" AND "BYE BYE!" WITH A BANG LIKE I MIGHT HAVE...
BUT NOW THAT I KNOW ALL THAT,


...AKI-SAN?
Hmm?
HOTEL
KAGAHI
open every day
2KM RIGHT SIDE

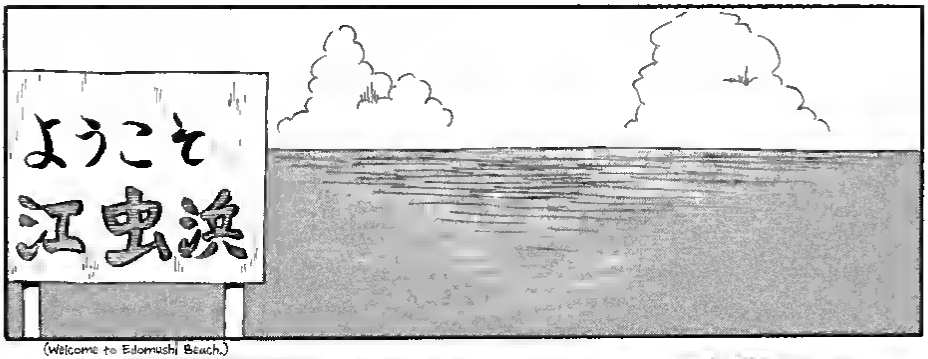
DO YOU THINK I CAN DO ALL THIS BEFORE IT ENDS?
OH. AND THE ONLY REASON I WAS ABLE TO COME WAS BE-CAUSE OF CAMP, RIGHT?
THAT DEPENDS ON YOU.

BUT DO YOU THINK I CAN REALLY DO IT? IT SOUNDS THIS CALLS FOR A GENUINE DETECTIVE CHICK.
WELL, THE FIRST STEP IS SIMPLY GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FATHER.

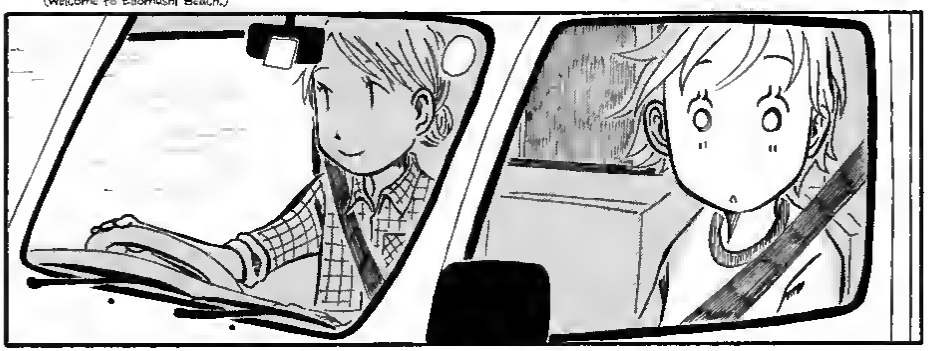

IT'S POS-SIBLE THAT SOME-ONE ELSE OIO IT.

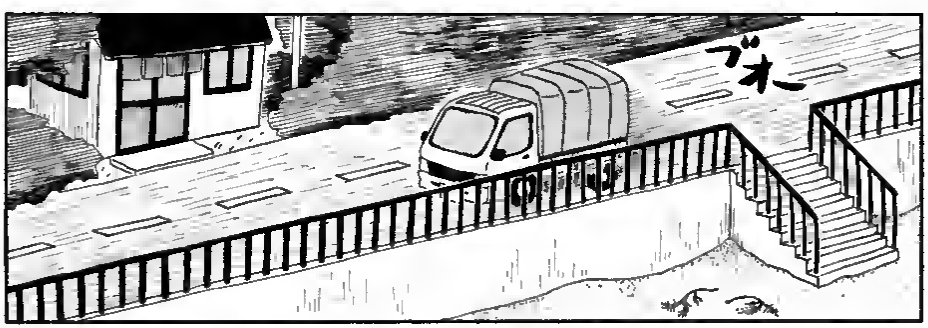

DID MY FATHER REALLY TAKE THOSE PEOPLE'S MONEY?

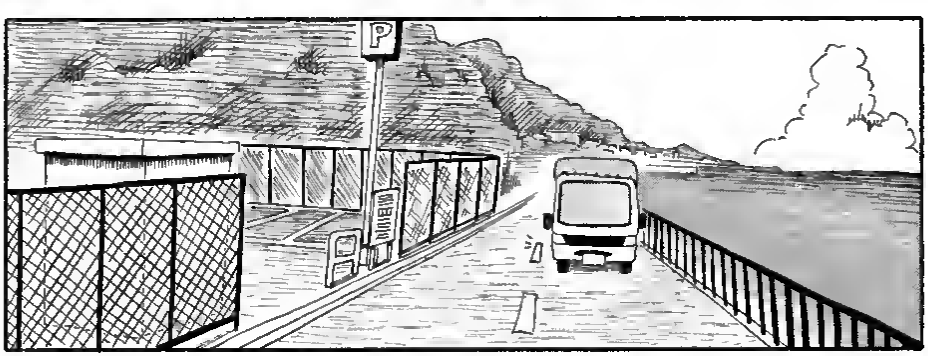
...THAT'S A JAPANESE WORD.
tekizytexion
IN ENGLISH, THEY CALL HAVING THE RIGHT PERSON IN THE RIGHT PLACE TEKIZYTEXION, RIGHT?
...IT IS?
MINAMI-CHAN, YOU SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE THINGS THAT ONLY YOU CAN DO.
DON'T YOU WORRY. I'LL BE LOOKING INTO THAT.
LEAVE THE REST TO ME.
.....
I SUPPOSE I MIGHT AS WELL TEACH YOU A LITTLE TRICK TO SEE IF SOMEONE'S LYING TO YOU.
CHISHU-KYOEN COUNTRY CLUB
↑ 3KM
BUT...
ブォー



(Welcome to Edomushi Beach.)



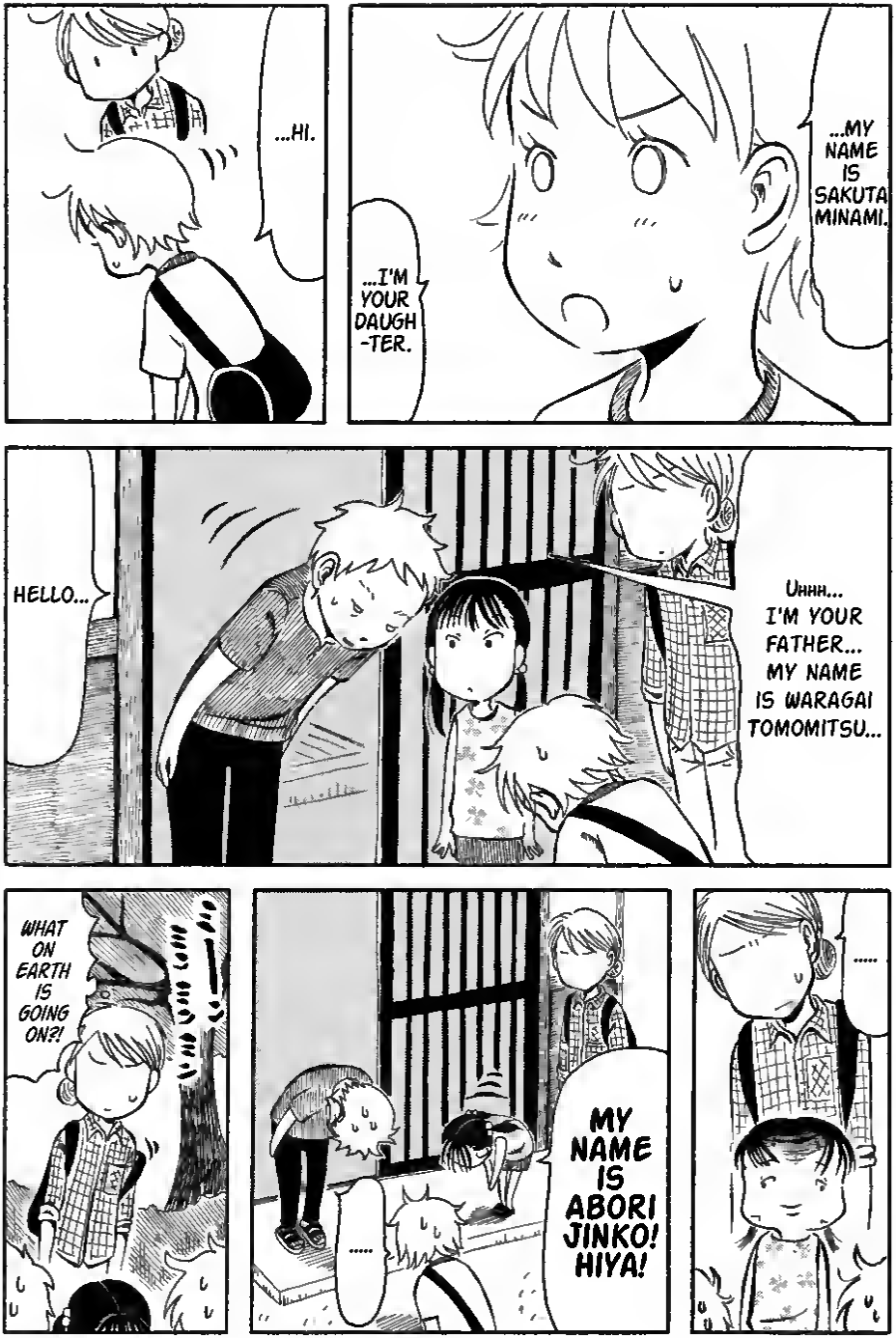




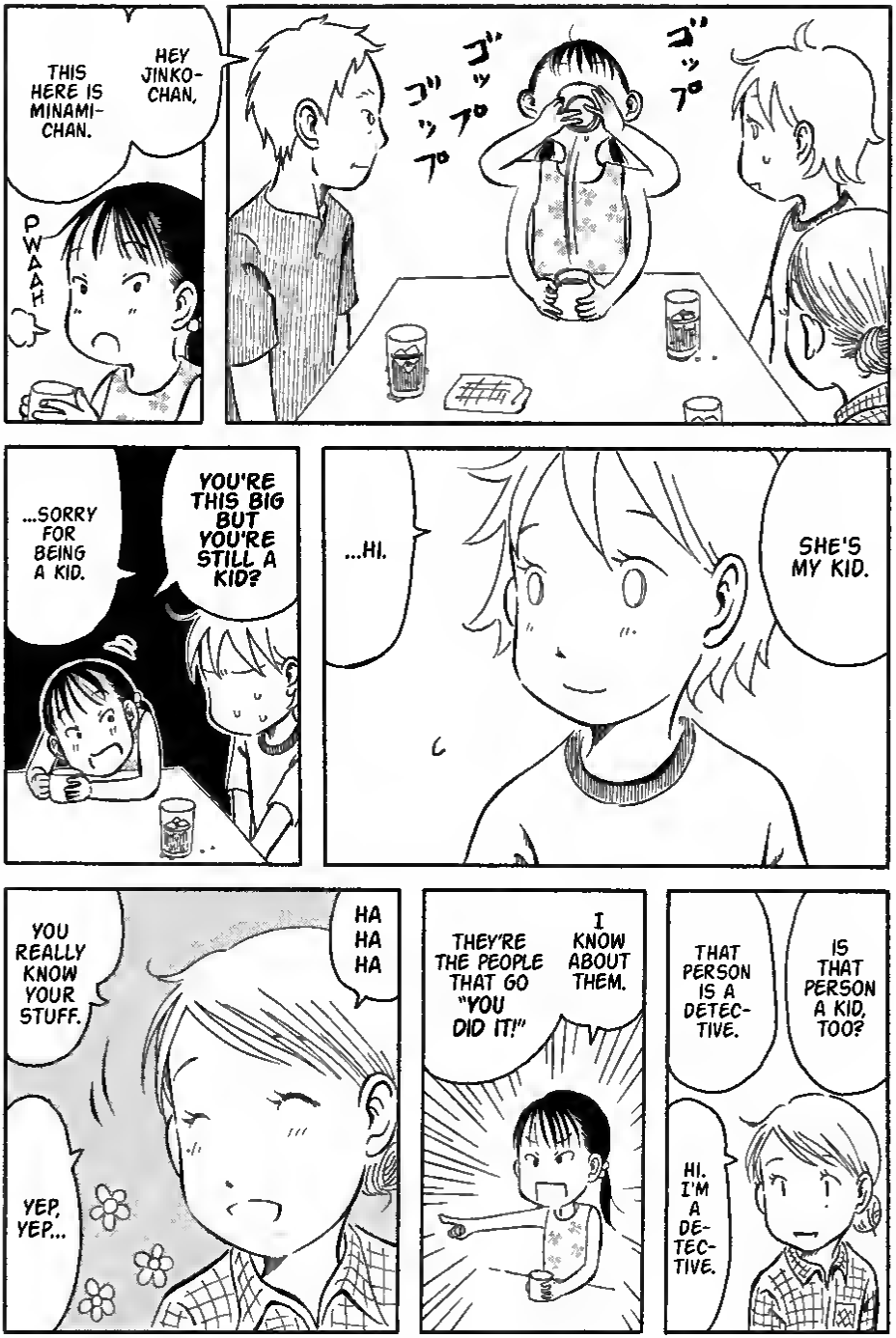
AND RIGHT NOW, YOUR DAD IS LIVING IN A GUEST HOUSE JUST NEXT TO ABORI-SAN'S.
A LONG TIME AGO, YOUR DAD USED TO BE A SHIATSU MASSEUR.
HE WAS TAUGHT BY A MAN NAMED ABORI-SAN. THIS IS WHERE HE LIVES.
ABORI SHIATSU MASSAGE CLINIC
Reservation Required
THEY ALWAYS SAY, "TO THOSE WHO SMILE," RIGHT?
SMIIIILE!!
FWAH!
OH-HO. SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE A BIT NERVOUS.
OF COURSE I AM!
WARAGAI-SAN! GOOD AFTERNOON! THIS IS MOJI! I CAME TO SEE YOU YESTERDAY!
DING DONG

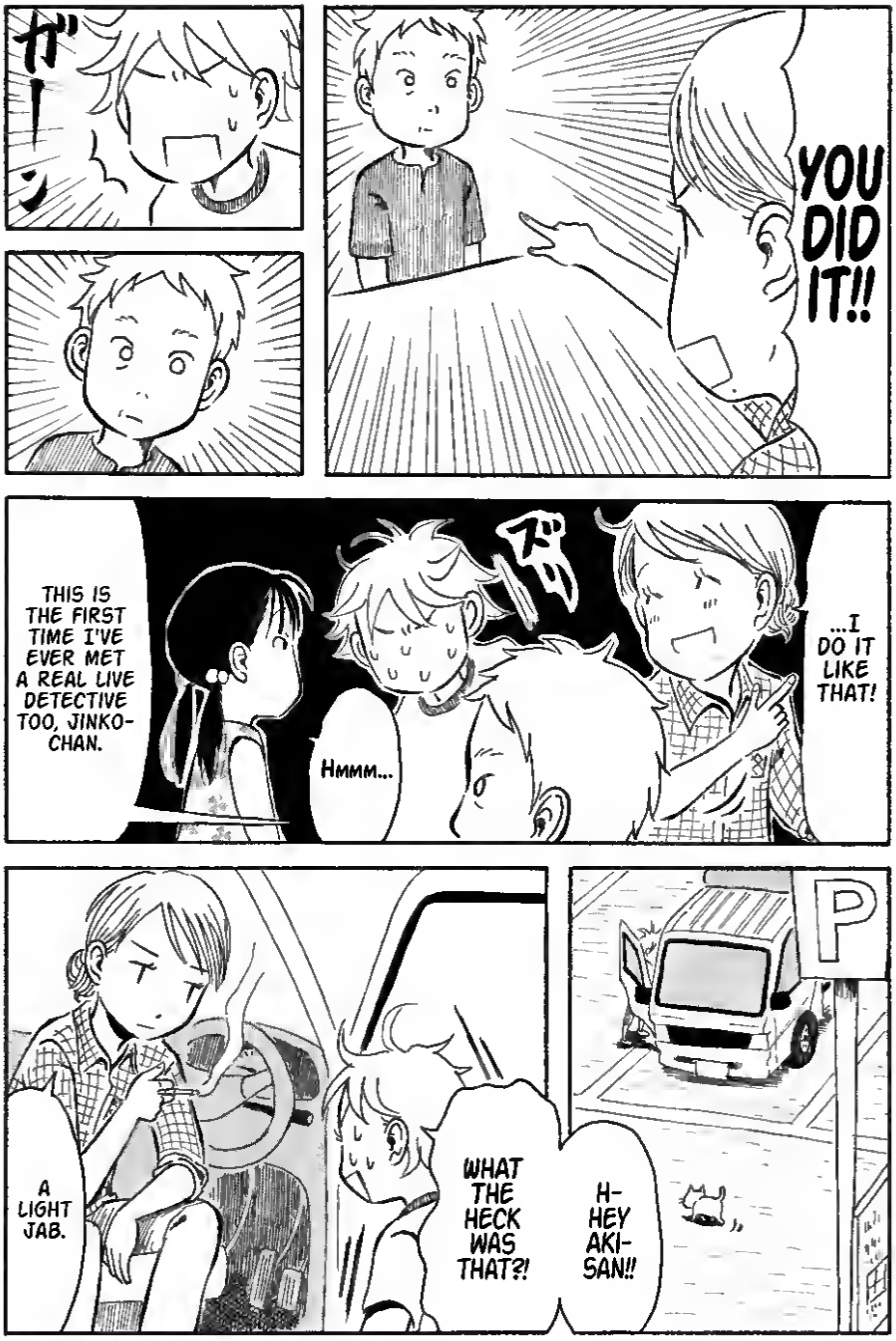
.....
HE HE HE HE HE
GRAMPS IS MAKING A POOP!
.....
がら
...AND WHOSE LITTLE JARINKO ARE YOU?
JA- WHAT?
ダバダバダバ
AHH!! SORRY ABOUT THAT!
WHO'RE 'DEY?
AH-HA. THANK YOU.
HEY GRAMPS! SOME-BODY'S HERE!

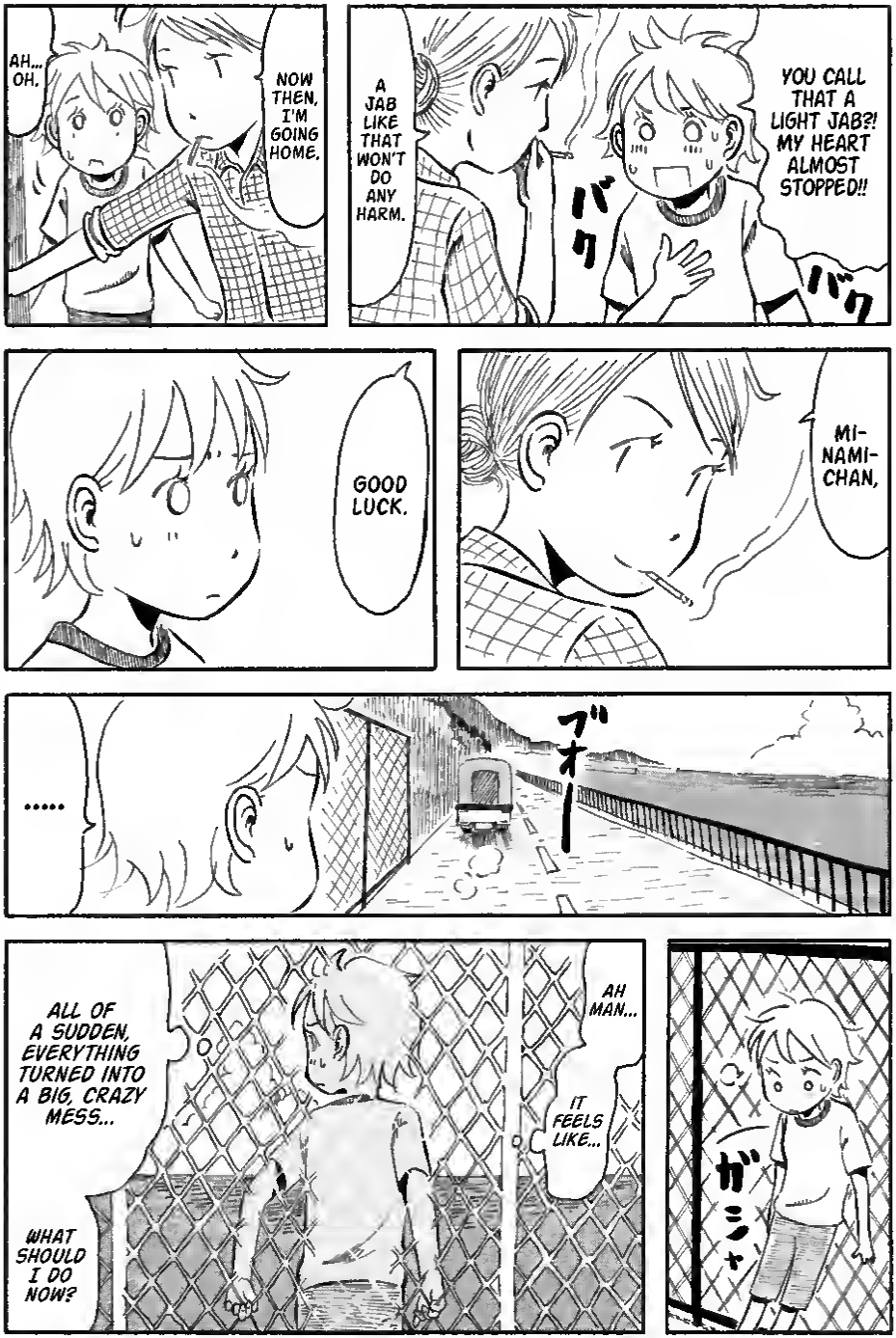
THANK YOU FOR YESTER-DAY.
AH...
HEY, HEY! WHO'RE 'DEY?!
YEAH...
...I SEE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THIS TIME, I BROUGHT YOUR DAUGH-TER, TOO.


...HI.
...I'M YOUR DAUGH -TER.
...MY NAME IS SAKUTA MINAMI.
HELLO...
Uhhh... I'M YOUR FATHER... MY NAME IS WARAGAI TOMOMITSU...
WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON?!
.....
MY NAME IS ABORI JINKO! HIYA!
.....

THE LITTLE GIRL IS ABORI-SAN'S GRAND-DAUGHTER.
OH, OKAY. NOW I GET IT.
カラン
リーン
ズリズリ
SHE'S BEEN COMING OVER TO PLAY EVERY DAY SINCE I ARRIVED HERE.
ズリ
HE HE HE HE
THERE AREN'T MANY KIDS AROUND HERE, SO IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S BEEN A BIT LONELY FOR A PLAYMATE.
たー
'KAY!
JINKO, COME HERE FOR A SECOND.


HEY JINKO-CHAN,
THIS HERE IS MINAMI-CHAN.
PWAAH
ゴップ
ゴップ
ゴップ
SHE'S MY KID.
...HI.
YOU'RE THIS BIG BUT YOU'RE STILL A KID?
...SORRY FOR BEING A KID.
I KNOW ABOUT THEM.
THEY'RE THE PEOPLE THAT GO "YOU DID IT!"
IS THAT PERSON A KID, TOO?
THAT PERSON IS A DETEC-TIVE.
HI. I'M A DE-TEC-TIVE.
HA HA HA
YOU REALLY KNOW YOUR STUFF.
YEP, YEP...


ガーン
YOU DID IT!!
...I DO IT LIKE THAT!
ズリ
Hmmm...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER MET A REAL LIVE DETECTIVE TOO, JINKO-CHAN.
P
H-HEY AKI-SAN!!
WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?!
A LIGHT JAB.


AH... OH.
NOW THEN, I'M GOING HOME.
A JAB LIKE THAT WON'T DO ANY HARM.
YOU CALL THAT A LIGHT JAB?! MY HEART ALMOST STOPPED!!
バク
バク
GOOD LUCK.
MI-NAMI-CHAN,
.....
ブオー
ALL OF A SUDDEN, EVERYTHING TURNED INTO A BIG, CRAZY MESS...
WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?
AH MAN...
IT FEELS LIKE...
ガシャ

TRANSLATION NOTES:

Page 114: The chapter title is a play on "Memento Mori," a Latin phrase meaning, "Remember that you, too, shall die."

Page 118:

(1) Portland Cement, Chichibu Cement, and White Cement are different brands of cement. Chichibu Cement is now defunct, having merged with Nihon Cement to form Taiheiyo Cement Corporation.

(2) To grasp the little joke about cement and skin, it's important to think about it in terms of pH. The pH scale of 1-14 measures acidity, with 7 being neutral, <7 alkaline, and >7 acids. Healthy human skin normally has a pH of about 4.5 to 5.5 pH. (We have a slightly acidic coat.) When water is added to cement, it forms calcium hydroxide, which can produce strongly alkaline pH's of up to 12 or 13 (per NPCA figures) and result in severe burns if exposed to unprotected skin. Many people believe that adding baking soda, bath salts, and other items to make baths more alkaline can have a beneficial effect on skin, "drawing out harmful acids."

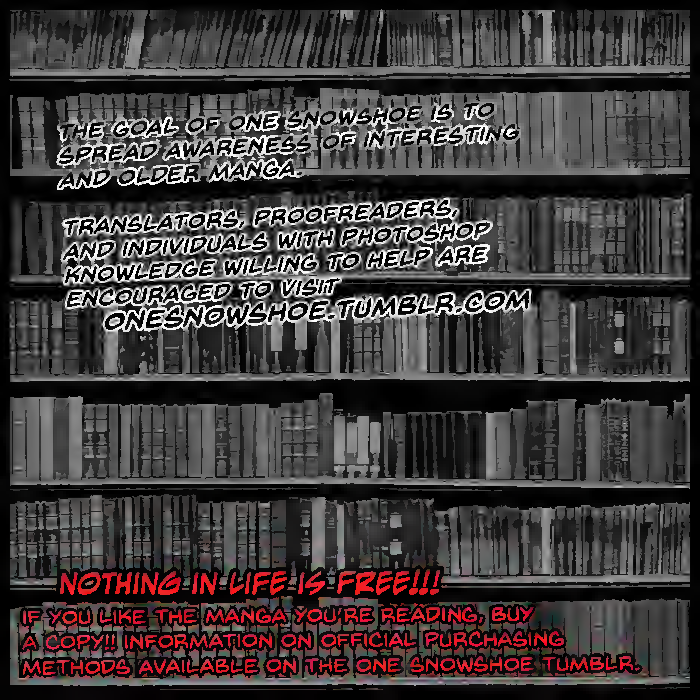
(3) Prince Shotoku is a quasi-legendary Japanese royal who lived in the 6th and 7th centuries AD. He thereafter became an important figure historically and has strong ties to many Buddhist figures.

Page 119: The burning chariot or "kasha" is a Japanese demon that steals the corpses of the deceased.

Page 121: "Tekizytexion" is one way of (approximately) pronouncing "適材適所," a phrase which means having the right person in the right place. It's a pun and a play on the bad habit some Japanese have of "Englishify-ing" Japanese words.

Page 123: Shiatsu is a type of traditional massage wherein the masseur/masseuse's hands and fingers apply physical pressure directly to points all over the body.

Page 124: Jarinko is a Japanese word meaning brat. The use here is likely referencing the classic manga series *Jarinko Chie / Chie the Brat*, which ran for 67 volumes (!!) from 1978 through 1997 and yielded two anime series. None of it is presently available in English in any format.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